

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay
by Michael Chabon

Think about the following questions as you read. You do not need to prepare written responses, but you should use them as a close reading guide. We will discuss these questions in class.

- Consider the qualities of a superhero like Spiderman. He acts responsibly, leads a double life, and uses his own natural powers to destroy enemies. Is Joe Kavalier a superhero?
- The novel mixes fiction and non-fiction. Keep track as you read of events that you suspect are historical.
- How does the story line of *The Escapist* reflect the real lives of its creators? Do you think the characters in that story are more strongly connected with Sammy or with Joe?
- How does the story line of *Luna Moth* parallel Rosa's life and her influence over Joe?
- Sammy often disparages comic art and lowbrow fiction. Yet, ironically, Chabon draws on comic art to create an intellectual piece of writing. What do you think Chabon is doing with Sammy's discontent over comics when Chabon himself has obviously studied them and invoked them in his writing?